

officer whose duty it was to report the facts to me.

#### Difficulties of His Office.

Secretary Alger, without any direct question, then proceeded to tell the commission of some of the difficulties which were encountered in equipping the army. The call for clothing and tentage came suddenly, but every bureau of the War Department exerted itself in making up the deficiency.

General Beaver—If a complaint came to you from a source outside of the War Department was an investigation of it made?

Secretary Alger—If the complaint appeared to have any foundation at all it was immediately investigated.

General Beaver—You have heard any complaint against the Quartermaster's and Medical Departments of the army during the war?

Secretary Alger—I can recall no specific complaint. I heard of some complaints which came from sources outside of the army.

General Beaver—Were these complaints properly attended to?

Secretary Alger—Invariably, and at the earliest possible moment.

General Beaver—Was trouble, when pointed out in these complaints, remedied when found?

Secretary Alger—If a deficiency in any department was found, it was supplied at the earliest possible moment, though we could not perform miracles.

General Beaver—Did you receive any special complaint against the food, either against refrigerated beef, or canned meat, which was issued to the army during the war?

Secretary Alger—I don't think so. Reports were received indicating a shortage of certain supplies at Santiago because of the difficulties encountered in getting supplies ashore, but supplies were on board the ships off shore in great abundance.

No Criticism to Make.

General Beaver—Have you had occasion to investigate any bureau of your department and to censure any head of any bureau?

Secretary Alger—No, sir; there has arisen not a single instance where I felt it my duty to censure the head of any bureau.

General Beaver—Has any head of a bureau of your department been guilty of neglect of duty?

Secretary Alger—No, sir.

General Beaver—Have you received any complaint, charging irregularity or fraudulent practices in the making of contracts for supplies for the army?

Secretary Alger—Not one, sir.

No Financial Interests.

General Beaver—Were you directly or indirectly interested in a financial way in the selection of any camp site in the United States?

Secretary Alger—No, sir; I never had a dollar's worth of interest in anything in the vicinity of any camp or a dollar's worth of interest in any State in which a national military reservation was located.

General Beaver—Did you have any interest, either direct or indirect, in any contract for the supply of materials to the Government during the late war?

Secretary Alger—No, sir; I was not interested in any way in any contract to the extent of a single cent.

General Beaver—Does that answer apply also to the matter of Government transports?

Secretary Alger—Yes, sir. Every cent expended under the direction of the War Department was expended on the part of which I had no direct or indirect interest.

Dr. Connor's Query.

General Beaver—Dr. Connor would like to know if the Surgeon General applied for funds before the allotment of the defense fund?

Secretary Alger—My impression is that he did not. No purchase of equipment for the army was made prior to the declaration of war. All the energies of the department had been bent toward the strengthening of the coast defenses, the placing of guns, and the planting of mines.

General Beaver—Have you any knowledge of complaints made by the Major General Commanding the army while in Porto Rico, that the refrigerated and canned meat issued by the Commissary Department was bad?

Miles' Bad Beef Report.

Secretary Alger—I in my last annual report there is printed a dispatch from General Miles requesting that no more beef of this kind be sent to the army. The beef was fresh meat which could be obtained in Porto Rico and in view of the fact that the refrigerated meat could not be carried inland farther than one day's travel from the coast, I think he also implied that some beef had spoiled down there.

General Beaver—Have you any other information about that beef?

Secretary Alger—No, sir.

General Beaver—I don't want to go into the secrets of the Government, and if you think it not fit to make an answer to the question, I do not wish to ask it. I want to ask you if it was the belief of these inside officials of the Government up to the time or before the time of the declaration of war that war would be averted.

Secretary Alger—Yes.

General Beaver—Did you ever have your heads of bureaus assembled for conference as to how the war might be prosecuted before war was declared?

Secretary Alger—I don't remember that all the heads of bureaus were assembled for that purpose.

regular army and presumably were acquainted with the rules of sanitation. The department received complaints of conditions in certain camps, but they came from sources outside the army. In addition to what was expected from commanding officers at the several camps, the Surgeon General, acting under directions from me, sent out a set of instructions for the guidance of the men and their officers.

General Beaver—What action did you take in the matter of complaints?

Secretary Alger—The condition of the camps was investigated and the sites changed when such a change was found to be desirable.

General Beaver—Did you ever send a special board to investigate the sanitation of the camps?

Secretary Alger—Yes.

General Beaver—Of whom did that board consist?

Secretary Alger—Colonel Greenleaf, Major Hopkins, and Colonel Gwynn. Their report was acted on promptly.

Secretary Alger then proceeded to tell the Commission why Camp Thomas was chosen. He declared that the site was recommended by General Miles. It was understood that the supply of water was adequate and wholesome; that there was plenty of ground; that the site was central, and that the railroad facilities were good. The recommendation of the Major General Commanding the Army was acted on until the reports of distress among the troops came from the camp. Then the various commands were transferred to other points.

Commissioner Woodbury—In addition to the information about beef received by you from General Miles in Porto Rico did you receive any other complaints from the armies in the field?

Secretary Alger—No, sir.

Alger Seeks Information.

Secretary Alger—I may, I want to ask for information. I want to know if the presence of the process beef on board a transport has been explained to the Commission, as I want it known that that meat was not the property of the Government and was not issued to troops.

General Beaver—Yes, it has been brought out in evidence here that the beef was prepared as an experiment by a man whose name has been given as Powell.

Secretary Alger—That beef should never have been allowed to be placed on exhibition on a Government transport.

General Beaver—Did you ever receive any complaints about the army meat being treated chemically?

Secretary Alger—Only through the testimony which has come before this Commission.

General Beaver—Had you any knowledge of this process beef before you heard of it through testimony before the Commission?

Secretary Alger—I never had a thought of such thing, sir.

General Beaver—How long has canned meat been used in the army?

Secretary Alger—I think canned meat was made a part of the army ration in 1890.

General Beaver—Will you state whether this canned meat was sent to the troops in Porto Rico to be used as an experiment?

Secretary Alger—No, sir; it has been regularly issued to soldiers of the regular army for a number of years.

Commissioner Woodbury—Have you received any complaints about beef from the present campaign?

Secretary Alger—No, sir; I am in receipt of letters from commissary officers and others commending the beef.

General Beaver—Are you interested in any canning or refrigerating process?

Secretary Alger—I have never had any interest in any process for canning or refrigerating meat, or in any property supplied to the Government from the beginning of the war.

Commissioner Woodbury—Did you ever receive from any officer in the army any request for any kind of supplies which was denied?

Secretary Alger—There was no requisition for supplies which was not granted.

Commissioner Woodbury—Was an allotment of money ever refused to any department on the grounds of the "troops?"

Secretary Alger—No, sir.

Mr. Woodbury—Do you depend on the reports of your department for the first information as to the needs of the troops?

Secretary Alger—Yes, sir; very largely.

Mr. Howell—Did you ever receive any report that much of the sickness among the troops was due to the lack of food?

Secretary Alger—No, sir.

Mr. Woodbury—Did you at all times take vigorous steps to fill all requisitions made on the department for food?

#### REQUIRED TO GIVE DETAILS.

Ocean Travelers Must Tell Exact Value of Articles Imported.

New York, Jan. 26.—Persons returning from abroad after February 1, will find they must comply with a new and unpleasant formality of the law with regard to such articles as they may have purchased abroad.

By a recent ruling of the Treasury Department they will have to declare in detail to the customs officers any and all articles they have purchased abroad.

This will not be agreeable news to trans-Atlantic voyagers, for heretofore they have been required to declare their purchases in a general way only, giving the total value, and that proved to be less than \$100 then the purchases were exempt from duty.

This ruling of the Treasury Department was brought about, Collector Bidwell explained, by the complaint of a customs officer, asserting that his action was justified by the tariff act. Other cases of a similar nature were cited, and for his future guidance, Collector Bidwell stated that the whole rule of the Treasury Department for a ruling.

In response to his inquiry he received the following instructions:

Treasury Department, Jan. 12, 1899.

Sir: Referring to your letter of the 26th ult., in the matter of dutiable articles found in the baggage of passengers arriving at your port, I have to direct that hereafter, whenever the baggage of passengers arriving at your port, is found to contain any dutiable articles, they shall be declared to the collector, and the collector, after making a list of the articles, shall forward the same to the collector of customs, who will be held responsible for their proper disposal.

W. B. HOWELL, Assistant Secretary.

Collector Bidwell said last night that this new regulation would go into effect on February 1, and that he believed that while at first it might cause some complaint on the part of passengers, it would ultimately be found beneficial. He said the rule now was that returning passengers were not obliged to declare any personal baggage they had purchased abroad that was valued at less than \$100, but that this rule had been found unsatisfactory.

Accordingly, he said, under the interpretation of the tariff act made by Assistant Secretary Howell, a complete list of all the articles purchased abroad, with a declaration of the value of each, will be required of passengers. In addition a description of every such article must be written on the back of the passengers' trunks.

For example, Mr. Bidwell said, "suppose a passenger has a comb in his baggage and declares he purchased it for \$1. The inspector will say, knowing the market value of combs, that it is worth \$36. In such a case the comb would go to the appraising officer who would fix the duty to be levied upon it. A man, again, may have a watch which he purchased abroad for \$50. If the inspector knows it is worth \$120 it will go to the appraising officer accordingly."

WEDDING POSTPONED.

Bride-Elect Waited Three Hours for the Groom, Who Came Not.

Scranton, Pa., Jan. 26.—Holy Trinity church in the North End was crowded yesterday afternoon with the friends of Miss Sweeney and Miss Sarah Jane Moran, who were to be married here. At 5 o'clock the anxiously awaiting assemblage was dispersed with the announcement that the nuptials had been postponed indefinitely.

The groom, who had been expected to arrive in the city by the 4 o'clock train, failed to appear. The bride-elect waited for three hours before she would consent to take off her wedding dress. No cause can be assigned for the groom's disappearance. He is an experienced young man, well-to-do, and a member of a good family.

HELD UP AND ROBBED.

Highwaymen Tie Their Victim and Take His Term.

Mechanicsburg, Pa., Jan. 26.—Three highway robbers held up Farmer Jonas Peters early yesterday morning. While one of the men held the horse's head the other two ordered the farmer and his wife to get out of the wagon. The robbers then descended the robbers fired their revolvers. The farmer and his wife were nearly frightened out of their wits and hurried from the wagon. Mr. Peters was searched and \$2 in money, his watch and chain and revolver were taken.

The highwaymen tied Mr. Peters to a fence, scrambled up the hill and drove about a mile up the mountain road, where they hid the horse. Mrs. Peters in the meantime released her husband and they soon found their way back to their home. As the highwaymen were making their escape, they were seen by a neighbor and a posse was called out.

TO ENCOURAGE TRUSTEES.

Bill to Repeal Maine Law Limiting Capital of Companies.

Augusta, Me., Jan. 26.—A bill was introduced in the house yesterday repealing that portion of the general law of the State governing the organization of companies which limits the capital stock to \$100,000.

There is an apparent movement to throw the doors wide open to the formation of companies with unlimited capitalization by paying the treasurer of the State \$10 for every \$100,000 worth of stock.

A bill was also introduced allowing the United States Envelope Company, a \$5,000,000 trust organized under the general law of Maine, to take possession of the stock of similar corporations.

SLOANE TO ENTER SUIT.

New Yorker Is Determined to Gain the Custody of His Daughters.

New York, Jan. 26.—It is more than likely that the marital difficulties of Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Sloane will be again brought before the public, this time in a suit to be filed by Mr. Sloane for the custody of his two daughters, who are now in his wife's care. Mr. Sloane has endeavored to prevent the publicity of his troubles as much as possible, for the girls' sake, but now the Mrs. Sloane positively refuses to give up the children the husband will adopt legal methods.

Since the separation Mr. Sloane has been living at the Hotel Waldorf, Fifth Avenue, and his wife occupies the home devoted to her by her husband at No. 5 East Seventy-second Street. The State's attorney has been called in to advise Mr. Sloane of his rights.

MORMONS IN ENGLAND.

Work of Proselytes Causes Rioting at Bristol.

Bristol, England, Jan. 26.—Elder Herbert James, of Utah, and eight other Mormons are holding Mormon revival meetings here. They have made numerous converts. An anti-Mormon league has been organized in Bristol for the avowed purpose of driving out Elder James and his band, and riots are taking place nightly. Many windows have been smashed and heads broken in the melee. The police are unable to protect the Mormons, who persist in their proselyting. They have been warned that their lives are not safe.

#### MARTHA BAILEY'S CASE.

Testimony About the Death of George W. Kiah.

Cambridge, Md., Jan. 26.—Martha Bailey, colored, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. H. C. Barrett yesterday afternoon. The prisoner, who is short, stout, and very black and wears glasses, was a model of composure throughout the trial.

Dr. Guy Steele testified to having helped perform an autopsy on the body of George Kiah, colored, and to having attended the family on Thursday, January 12, when they were all taken sick at dinner. He said that from their symptoms he thought they had been poisoned by arsenic or corrosive sublimate. He also testified to having tested the flour and to have eaten a small piece of an oyster fritter, to which they attributed their illness. He described briefly their treatment with milk, emetics, and antidotes, which was continued by Dr. Steele and when the doctors were then sent for they were not found until too late. They reached the home after their death.

Dr. Steele testified that when first called to attend Kiah's wife he thought from her symptoms and what the family said about some meat which they had eaten that she was suffering from ptomaine poisoning.

Serena Kiah, daughter of George W. Kiah, testified to having purchased the flour and tea which were in the house at the time of her husband's death. She said they were bought on Christmas Eve about 8 p. m., and taken home, where they were placed in the receptacles in which they were usually kept. Serena said that in their kitchen, a room which, she said, Martha Bailey was familiar with from having cooked in it, Serena further testified that she saw Martha Bailey standing in the yard of her cousin's house, which was next door, and peering in the window of Kiah residence, to which she called her brother's house. She said that she and her brother left the house, a part of which was occupied by another woman, but no one remained in the kitchen. Serena on cross-examination testified that no one of her father's death, and that she made some bread out of the flour on Sunday morning and that no one was harmed by it.

A colored girl named Griffith testified to having heard some words between Kiah and Martha two years ago.

On cross-examination, Griffith testified to having heard some words between Kiah and Martha two years ago.

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#### MAYER BROS. & CO., Temporarily 1110, 1114, 1116 F Street N.W.

## This Remarkable Fire Sale is Without Precedent!

## SPECIALS FOR TODAY and TOMORROW

Almost takes your breath away to participate in this stupendous bargain-giving.

Beyond the pale of any sale ever attempted. A mercantile wonder that will be remembered for years to come. We've actually had to lock our doors to stem the inrush of the eager crowds of buyers.

Your most sanguine expectations shall be more than realized. As we said in a previous announcement, Come Prepared to Buy

Or You Will Honestly Regret Missing Washington's Most Famous Sale of the 19th Century

Don't fail to see our magnificent line of Silks and Dress Goods which we had for special orders. They are offered at one-third former price.

STARTLING bargains in Coats, Capes and Furs. FASCINATING values in Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats. STRIKING examples of Hosiery and Glove reductions. BEWILDERING price cutting in Ribbons and Neckwear. MARVELOUS temptations in Jewelry and Notions.

## UNEXAMPLED SLAUGHTER ALL ALONG THE LINE!

We Mention But a Few Items Taken Haphazard:

GLOVES—All Guaranteed Perfect. Ladies' Kid Gloves, \$1.25 60c. Ladies' Kid Gloves, worth \$1.50 to \$1.75, 90c. Ladies' 2-clasp and 5-book Lace Kid Gloves, worth \$1.45c. Girls' and Children's Mocha Mittens, 30c.

LADIES' WAISTS—All Guaranteed Perfect. What a glorious chance awaits you ladies, to secure a beautiful waist, for either house or dress, if you hurry up. HANDSOME PLAID WAISTS—All this season's styles—the dollar kind, at 60c. BEAUTIFUL—BRILLIANT WAISTS—Suitable for young or old—worth \$1.50. VELVET CORDUROY WAISTS—Dressy and stylish—worth \$2—at \$1.65.

UMBRELLAS—All Guaranteed Perfect. More values come thundering along the line, as we unpack case after case that have escaped even smoke and water. Examine these offers and show your purchase to your friends, that they may share your good luck.

\$2.00 Umbrellas, \$1.00. \$3.00 Umbrellas, \$1.50. \$4.00 Umbrellas, \$2.00. \$6.00 Umbrellas, \$3.00.

LADIES' COATS—All guaranteed perfect. A charming line of LADIES' COATS awaits early buyers. All the new shades of Tan, Black, Blue, and Boucle Mixtures. Man-tailored garments of high degree. Strap buttons, pearl buttons, finely lined, perfect workmanship. Every one a gem.

\$10.00 Coats at \$3.00. \$12.00 Coats at \$5.00. ELECTRIC SEAL JACKETS—Quite perfect. We have but TWO of these handsome jackets left and the ladies whom they will fit will get a bargain worth hastening for.

One \$20 Jacket, size 24-at \$14.00. One \$25 Jacket, size 28-at \$30.00. Now Ladies—ask particularly to see this lot of elegant DRESS GOODS, in black, colored, and high-class novelties and self-renewers, which are positively retailed in Washington at from \$20 to \$25 a yard. Take your choice quickly at—50c.

RIBBONS GALORE—All Guaranteed Perfect. An entire counter filled with handsome ribbons—only cut pieces, and no duplicates. Numbers range from 2 to 28—worth from 25c to 50c. Take your choice quickly at—10c.

Bycycle Suits. The most recent style and design at a fraction of actual value.

Mayer Bros. & Co., Temporarily 1110, 1114, 1116 F St. Metzerott Building.

#### MANY BEREAVEMENTS.

Young Woman a Maid, Bride, Widow and Orphan Within Two Months.

Oswego, N. Y., Jan. 26.—The wedding of George Tusdale Clark and Miss Grace Downey in Christ P. E. Church on November 2 was one of the most fashionable events of the social season.

Mr. Clark, who was 30 years of age, died suddenly four weeks after his marriage. He was one of the leading lawyers in this part of the State and well known to the profession, even in New York city, where he had appeared with distinction in several important cases. He presided at Oswego a brief for the remission of tolls on the Welland Canal before the American Joint High Commission last fall, and made so favorable an impression upon his audience that he was elected to that body that upon the announcement of his death it passed suitable resolutions and adjourned for the day.

Tolbert Downey, father of the bride, died last Tuesday. He was a grain and coal dealer and shipper, well known and highly esteemed throughout northern New York and Ontario, president of the Oswego Board of Trade, and a man of wealth and distinction.

Twelve hours previous to Mr. Downey's death, Mrs. Clark, the bride, the bridegroom's mother, passed away, after a brief illness, during which she had been, by the advice of the physicians, kept in ignorance of the death and burial of her husband. Dr. Charles C. P. Clark, who had died the previous Saturday, Dr. Clark was a physician of much more than local reputation, a frequent contributor to the medical periodicals, and the author of a scheme for municipal registration and voting which is well known to ballot reformers. His death, and probably that of Mrs. Clark as well, were due in no slight degree to the shock caused by the sudden death of their son.

This is a little more than two months ago that Mrs. Clark, the bride, the bridegroom's mother, passed away, after a brief illness, during which she had been, by the advice of the physicians, kept in ignorance of the death and burial of her husband. Dr. Charles C. P. Clark, who had died the previous Saturday, Dr. Clark was a physician of much more than local reputation, a frequent contributor to the medical periodicals, and the author of a scheme for municipal registration and voting which is well known to ballot reformers. His death, and probably that of Mrs. Clark as well, were due in no slight degree to the shock caused by the sudden death of their son.

Postmaster at San Juan. Marion, Ind., Jan. 26.—W. J. Landis, a newspaper man of this city, has been appointed postmaster of San Juan, Porto Rico. He is to take charge on February 1. Landis recently left here for Porto Rico and helped to establish the United States postoffice in Ponce and other cities.

Pure ingredients make the best bread. "Pat-motto" Bread is absolutely pure, strengthening, and healthy.

THE NATIONAL LEAD-CLAD ROOF PAINTING COMPANY. Roofs Repaired by Practical Mechanics and Guaranteed. Pure Red Lead Only Used. Get Estimates. Address: T. H. POWERS, 825 6th St. S. W. Tel. 1100, ex.

Typewriters Rented, \$3.50 per month. Delivered with table. THE TYPEWRITER EXCHANGE, 1006 F Street N. W. Tel. 1100, ex.

**SPECIAL NOTICES.**

**NOTICE.**—Memorial services in commemoration of the gallant and soldier of the late Spanish-American war will be held by the Washington Hebrew congregation at their temple, Eighth Street northwest, THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING, JANUARY 27, at 7:30 o'clock. Hon. Simon Wolf will deliver the oration. Tel. 7-6000.

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Continental Savings and Loan Company will be held at the office of the company, No. 111 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Va., on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1899. Polls open from 2 to 7 p. m. Books closed for transfer of stock February 13 to 20, inclusive. CHAS. H. ALLEN, Secretary. Tel. 7-6000.

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Dime Capital Savings Bank will be held at the office of the company, No. 111 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Va., on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1899. Polls open from 2 to 7 p. m. Books closed for transfer of stock February 13 to 20, inclusive. CHAS. H. ALLEN, Secretary. Tel. 7-6000.

**PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED** at the office of the Columbia Railway Company, 1099 Florida Avenue northeast, Washington, D. C., for furnishing said company with 400 round chestnut poles, said poles to be 30, 35, and 40 feet long, with tops 12 to 14 inches in diameter. Proposals will also be received for 22,000 cross ties, which are to conform to the specifications of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Books for plans and proposals will be received until January 28. The company reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. THEODORE J. KING, Secretary. Tel. 25-2100.

**Office of the** WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY, WASHINGTON, D.